

Governor Barbour Helps PLADs Recipient Get Medicare Coverage Information After Press Conference

Canton resident not to be adversely affected by Medicaid change

After his press conference this morning in Canton announcing an extension of the Medicaid-to-Medicare transition, Governor Haley Barbour met Ms. Winnie McGruder, a Canton PLADs recipient. After discussing her prescription needs, the Governor and his staff have determined that Ms. McGruder will not be adversely affected by the Medicaid Reform Act changes to take effect in September.

Ms. McGruder takes 11 drugs, including several common, over-the-counter medications. Five of her drugs will be available to her for free under the patient assistance programs. The most she will pay for any of her other medication is \$12 for a 30 day supply. Her total drug costs will be \$39 per month. This cost will be more than covered by the \$1200 Ms. McGruder will receive from the federal Medicare program between September 15, 2004, and January 1, 2006, when the full Medicare prescription drug benefit becomes law.

Ms. McGruder will also have access to more doctor visits, more emergency room visits, more home health visits and more hospital visits under Medicare than her current Medicaid coverage allows.

The Governor was happy to report this information to Winnie McGruder this afternoon and hopes that her experience is repeated throughout Mississippi as PLADs recipients begin learning how to take full advantage of the Medicaid Reform Act changes.

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